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usaswimming.org

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301
Re: Osborn Aquatic Center

May 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern.

On behalf of USA Swimming, we extend support for the State of Oregon to invest in the revitalization of the Osborn Aquatic Center. The facility not only serves the Corvallis School District and Benton County, but also the entire state and multi-state region. It is vital in providing swimming lessons, fitness, healthy activities for youth, and competitive swimming for all age groups- youth to adults. The facility also permits Oregon Swimming and local clubs to host meets that annually attract thousands of families and athletes from around the region who contribute to the local economy. Investment in the aquatic center will impact the community for decades to come.

According to the CDC, more children ages 1-4 die in the US from drowning than any other cause of death while drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury/death for children ages 5-14. Cities across the US are taking steps to reduce these statistics by offering school, city/county wide swim lessons beginning at young ages. This Osborn aquatic has been critical to offering these lessons to increase water safety in the community. Continued operation of the facility will continue to meet the needs of competitive swimming, water safety, water therapy, swimming lessons, aquatic fitness/wellness, and rehab for infants to seniors.

The reinvestment in this facility truly serves the whole state of Oregon. The pool brings over 10,000 families to the community from across the state and region each year between USA Swimming/Oregon Swimming Sanctioned Competition (multi day events), YMCA, High School, US Masters Swimming, and Oregon Swimming youth development camps. The loss of this facility would not only impact water safety and community health but will also have a negative impact on the local economy. The Greensboro Aquatic Center, which faces significantly more market competition due to a greater density of 50 Meter pools in their region, estimates it has produced \$150 Million in economic impact to the Greensboro community since 2011, and the Osborn facility serves a similar role on the West Coast.

Please let us know if there is additional information or programming resources we can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Shinofield", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Joel Shinofield
Managing Director, Sport Development